

- 10** Thousands of parents have recently been prosecuted by local education authorities for taking their children out of school to go on holiday during term time. I took my daughter out of primary school for a two-week holiday every year. The headmistress made no objection and said it would give the other kids time to catch up with her! She was able to learn a foreign language and spend some rewarding time with her French pen-pal. She eventually achieved top grades at school and a degree in mathematics, so it obviously did her no harm! Parents, not governments, know best how to raise children. This law is quite unnecessary.

Which one of the following is the best statement of the **flaw** in the above argument?

- A** It is an appeal to tradition because it suggests that taking children on holiday in term time used to be acceptable.
- B** It is based on authority as it uses the headmistress's lack of objection in support.
- C** It assumes that because the daughter's good grades were achieved after her foreign holidays, they were the result of the holidays.
- D** It is based entirely on the one example of the daughter and generalises from that.
- E** It assumes that learning some French adequately compensated for the work the daughter missed.

- 21** When mobile phones first became relatively inexpensive many parents bought them for their teenage children on the grounds that having access to a phone would keep them safe. High profile cases of abduction at the time underscored the need to improve safety for young people. But today mobile phones invariably have access to the internet, which has made young people vulnerable to stalking and cyberbullying. Since the stated case for buying teenagers mobile phones was to keep them safe, we should now restrict their access to them.

Which one of the following is the best statement of the **flaw** in the above argument?

- A** The incidence of cyberbullying and stalking does not undermine the respects in which mobile phones keep teenagers safe.
- B** If you restrict young people's access to mobile phones they will continue to bully one another on other devices.
- C** Access to mobile phones has not stopped teenagers from being attacked while out alone at night.
- D** The majority of teenagers are not affected by the problems of stalking and cyberbullying.
- E** It ignores the fact that there are other ways of keeping children safe.

- 34** Welfare benefits create a culture of dependency and an unproductive workforce. There are people who stay on welfare benefits for years and never look for employment. Two years ago the government introduced tougher restrictions on the eligibility to receive benefits and the number of recipients has now fallen by 20%. The government should therefore toughen these restrictions even more to further reduce the number of welfare claimants.

Which one of the following identifies the **flaw** in the above argument?

- A** It rests on the false assumption that people are happy to stay on benefits and not look for work.
- B** It gives the impression that the benefits are undeserved.
- C** It ignores the possibility of other causes for the fall in the number of welfare recipients.
- D** It equates the recipients of benefits with an unproductive workforce.
- E** It implies that welfare recipients are in this situation due to their own fault.

- 1** The 21st century is witnessing a significant rise in the proportion of people being diagnosed by medical professionals as having a mental illness. For example, at the turn of the century, the number of Canadians being treated for depression increased by over 30% in just one year. A recent study in the US found that nearly twice the number of young people there were diagnosed with a mental disorder in 2018 as compared to 2003. The World Health Organization estimates that by 2028, depression will be the second leading type of disability worldwide. It is clear that aspects of the modern world make it more difficult for people to maintain good mental health.

Which one of the following is the best statement of the **flaw** in the above argument?

- A** Changes in health care and a decrease in stigma attached to mental illness may be responsible for higher diagnosis rates.
- B** Many people with a mental health diagnosis may be able to function well in society.
- C** Significant numbers of people may be hesitant to seek help for mental health concerns from doctors or other medical professionals.
- D** Some physical and behavioural factors may make mental health diagnoses more difficult.
- E** In some cultures people may prefer to seek help for mental health concerns from religious leaders as opposed to doctors.